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**Amendments to the Claims:**

1. (Cancelled)
2. (Cancelled)
3. (Cancelled)
4. (Cancelled)
5. (Previously Amended) A valve for a brake control actuator comprising:  
a rod operable between respective operating conditions to selectively allow passage of brake fluid through the valve; and  
a ball non-rotatingly affixed at one end of the rod, the ball including a sealing section comprising a first spherical segment that upon engagement against a ball-receiving seat in the valve blocks passage to brake fluid therethrough, the ball further including a mounting section integral with the sealing section, the mounting section comprising a second spherical segment configured to provide a reduced footprint relative to a full spheroidal footprint and enable a strong mechanical joint between the mounting section and the rod, wherein the mounting section further comprises a cylindrical section circumferentially defining a midsection of the ball and configured to join said first and second spherical segments, said first spherical segment comprising a larger volume relative to the second spherical segment, and wherein the cylindrical section is bounded at opposite axial ends thereof by corresponding angled surfaces.
6. (Cancelled)
7. (Cancelled)

8. (Cancelled)
9. (Cancelled)
10. (Cancelled)
11. (Cancelled)
12. (Previously Amended) A method for arranging a valve for a brake control actuator, the valve including a rod operable between respective operating conditions to selectively allow passage of brake fluid through the valve, the method comprising:  
configuring a ball non-rotatingly affixable at one end of the rod, the ball being configured to include a sealing section comprising a first spherical segment, and a mounting section integral with the sealing section;  
configuring the sealing section so that upon engagement against a ball-receiving seat, the sealing section blocks passage to the brake fluid therethrough;  
configuring the mounting section as a second spherical segment to provide a reduced footprint relative to a full spheroidal footprint while enabling a strong mechanical joint between the mounting section and the rod, and wherein the mounting section is further configured as a cylindrical section circumferentially defining a midsection of the ball to join said first and second spherical segments, said first spherical segment comprising a larger volume relative to the second spherical segment, and the cylindrical section is bounded at opposite axial ends thereof by corresponding angled surfaces;  
configuring the end of the rod to correspond with the mounting section of the ball; and  
affixing the ball to the end of the rod.

Appl. No. 09/974,739  
Amdt. Dated May 4, 2004  
Reply to Office Action of April 27, 2004

~~12~~ 13 (Cancelled)

~~13~~ 14 (Cancelled)